

Gunfire hits home of Beedh's son

ADEN (AP) — Police Monday arrested three suspects after the home of Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh's son was hit with automatic weapons fire. Major Faizal Muthana of the police criminal investigation department, which is headed by the son, Adnan, identified the three suspects as military police from a barracks opposite the house. Police officials said Adnan's house was raked with intermittent fire beginning at 03:00 a.m. (2300 GMT) as Adnan and his family slept inside. No injuries were reported. The attack damaged the exterior of the harbour-side villa, police said. The attack comes two weeks after a drive-by shooting targeting Mr. Beedh's two younger sons, Nayef and Nawaf, as they were being driven home after midnight on Oct. 29. They were unharmed but their cousin Kamel Muhammad Abdil Hamid who was driving was killed. No arrests have been made in connection with that attack. Mr. Beedh, the former president of South Yemen, and President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the former ruler of North Yemen, have been locked in a feud since the two Yemens united in 1990. Mr. Beedh claims 150 members of his Yemeni Socialist Party, which ruled South Yemen, have been killed in assassinations by members of the armed forces.

Volume 18 Number 5463

AMMAN TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1993, JUMADA AL THANI 2, 1414

Price: 150 FLS

Troops leave for Croatia

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Armed Forces Monday dispatched another batch of Jordanian peacekeeping forces to Croatia. The forces were seen off in a ceremony held at the Royal Military College and attended by Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff General Abdil Hafez Mirza Ka'abneh.

Juppe due here on Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is due in Amman on Thursday for a brief visit during which he will discuss the situation and trends in the Middle East peace process as well as the bilateral relations.

Kuwait to carry out execution — paper

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will hang a man for murder Tuesday in its second execution since the 1991 Gulf war, a newspaper reported. "A sentence of execution by hanging will be carried out on non-Kuwaiti killer Kamel M.T. tomorrow morning," said Al Anba newspaper. The term "non-Kuwaiti" in the Kuwaiti media normally refers to a member of the emir's so-called stateless Arab community. The emir's two million population includes up to 100,000 stateless Arabs. The paper said Kamel M.T. shot a man and buried his body in a ditch in the desert in April 1991. "The killer claimed during the investigations that he killed the victim because the deceased married a lady in a non-Islamic manner," the paper said without elaborating. It did not give the nationality of the victim.

Hizbullah: No links to Somali factions

BEIRUT (R) — The Hizbullah (Party of God) in Lebanon Monday dismissed suggestions that some of its members could be planning to launch car-bomb attacks against U.S. and U.N. forces in Somalia. "The resistance to these forces is a Somali resistance driven by nationalistic motives especially after the Americans revealed their true aggressive intentions," it said in a statement. U.S. officials in Mogadishu said Hizbullah members from Lebanon or Iran had arrived in Mogadishu and could be planning car-bomb attacks (see page 10).

Iran warns France

NICOSIA (AP) — French-Iranian relations will suffer unless France reverses a decision to grant asylum to a leading Iranian opposition leader, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Monday. In an interview with the Tehran Times, Mr. Velayati said that France's decision to grant asylum to Maryam Rajavi "has an impact on Iran-France" relations. "I hope that French officials will revise their policy on the terrorists before Tehran-Paris relations become more tense," the Times quoted Mr. Velayati as saying.

Ekeus rules out concessions to Iraq

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Security Council is unlikely to lift sanctions against Iraq in the immediate future despite progress in eliminating its weapons of mass destruction, U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus said in an interview published Monday. Iraq had rejected a \$1.6 billion oil export deal with the United Nations and it was now seeking a complete removal of the embargo, Mr. Ekeus said. "But this is a remote possibility because Iraq must abide by all Security Council resolutions, especially accepting a long-term inspection of its capabilities and de-militarization of borders with Kuwait," he told the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej.

Israel, PLO resume talks amid secrecy

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) resumed talks on Monday on an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

A PLO official said the talks were going on at a secret Cairo venue.

The Israeli embassy, the PLO mission and Egypt's Foreign Ministry all refused to say whether the meeting had started. But the official, who requested anonymity, said in late afternoon that the sixth round of talks had been going on for more than two hours.

Diplomats said the negotiations, led by PLO strategist Nabil Shaath and Israeli Major-General Amnon Shachak, would be trying to define "Jericho" and agree how many Israeli troops can remain in Gaza to protect 3,000 Jewish settlers.

The two sides are struggling to reach agreement in time for an Israeli withdrawal to start as scheduled on Dec. 13.

They are holding the talks in secret to avoid the media, which they complain have embarrassed both sides by presenting compromises as concessions. Earlier rounds were held in the small Egyptian resort of Taba, where it was impossible to hide from reporters.

Dr. Shaath told Reuters before the meeting: "The talks are a continuation of what we have started last week. We will discuss security arrangements and the Israeli troops withdrawal to meet the Dec. 13 deadline."

A diplomat close to the talks said: "The same questions are on the table," defining the borders of the Jericho area and how many soldiers and policemen from each side would deploy and along which roads.

The PLO wants Israel to withdraw from 340 to 360 square kilometres in and around Jericho, an area nearly the size of Gaza. Israel is thinking of just 25 square kilometres.

If that issue is controversial, the question of Israeli troops remaining in Gaza to protect 3,000 settlers nearly wrecked the talks two weeks ago. The PLO said Israel wanted to retain control of half of Gaza.

But a breakthrough came when Israel agreed to cut the number of soldiers it wanted to deploy.

The diplomat said Israel wanted to keep control of the main north-south highway through Gaza and to operate checkpoints on three other roads linking settlements to Israel.

In this round the main debate will be over how many

troops and patrols will be stationed over these roads," he said. "They closed some of the gaps last week but they still need to finish the others."

The Gaza-Jericho withdrawal is the first phase of a five-year interim period of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, during which the PLO and Israel will negotiate a final peace settlement.

Dr. Shaath said the negotiations would continue in Cairo until agreement was reached on all security issues. They would then move back to Taba for subcommittees to discuss the transfer of authority from Israel to the Palestinians, electricity and transport.

The PLO negotiator said on Sunday the Palestinians would not sign the withdrawal plan on schedule unless Israel gave a written commitment to free thousands of Palestinian detainees.

"We want the Israeli side to release these prisoners as soon as possible. Believe me, in December this agreement will not be signed if we don't have a written commitment on the release of prisoners," Dr. Shaath told a news conference.

Before the accord can be signed Dec. 13, the two sides must also reach agreement on control of the crossing points between Gaza and Egypt and between Jericho and Jordan.

Dr. Shaath told Reuters before

Settler kills Arab after alleged attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Jewish settler shot dead a Palestinian who allegedly attacked him with a stone in the West Bank town of Hebron Monday, military officials said.

The incident provoked reprisals from settlers who stoned Palestinian cars provoking a road accident in which six people were hurt on the outskirts of Hebron.

The incidents which left dozens of cars damaged were sparked by two Palestinians who left a settler seriously wounded in the head as he went to the Tomb of the Patriarchs, which is holy to Jews and Muslims.

It was the first attack since

five militants of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's own Fatah group had killed a settler on Oct. 29.

The announcement triggered a major crisis with Israel winning a new commitment from Mr. Arafat to halt attacks.

The pledge has kept talks on implementing the autonomy agreement on course and a new session opened later Monday in Cairo (see separate story).

Seven Israelis have been killed since the autonomy deal

(Continued on page 3)

Rabin, Aspin discuss weapons

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin held talks with Defense Secretary Les Aspin Monday on President Bill Clinton's promise to bolster Israeli security, including the sale of advanced U.S. warplanes.

As the two met at the Pentagon, U.S. defense officials told Reuters no final decision had been made on whether Israel will buy the F-15-E, built by McDonnell Douglas Corp. and considered the world's most sophisticated ground attack jet.

Mr. Clinton said after meeting Mr. Rabin Friday that Washington would help improve Israeli security — including providing more warplanes, anti-missile defences and computer technology — to boost Israeli confidence en route to Middle East peace.

Mr. Clinton gave no details on warplane transfers, but no other country has been allowed to buy F-15Es. The United States agreed last year to sell 72 less-advanced F-15Xp (export) versions of the basic F-15 fighter to Saudi Arabia.

Washington currently provides Israel with \$1.5 billion in annual military aid and Mr. Clinton promised that the U.S. aid level, the highest to any foreign nation, would not be cut.

The F-15E jets cost more than \$15 million each.

Syria has a powerful air force made up of hundreds of Soviet-built warplanes, including advanced MiG-29 fighter jets.

Israel now has more than 50 older models of the basic F-15.

Its ground-attack capability is comprised chiefly of more than 150 U.S.-built F-16 jets bought before 1989 and another 60 that it is in the process of buying.

No group has claimed responsibility for the assassination of Shabtai. But Fatah's chief of security in 'Ain Al Hilweh, Abu Hussein Farhoud, blamed Abu Nidal's breakaway Fatah Revolutionary Council for Shabtai's murder.

The Palestinian delegation will be led by PLO economics

Results of elections and shape of House are factors in Senate make-up

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) ends its legal term on Nov. 22 and most observers agree that the outcome of last week's parliamentary elections would influence the composition of the 17th Senate, which is expected to be reappointed on Dec. 13.

The former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Fathi Abu Taleb, is also expected to be named a member of the 17th Senate and former commanders of the armed forces Habes Al Majali and Amer Khamash are expected to be reappointed as senators.

Observers also say that each of the eight governors in the Kingdom are expected to be represented by two senators.

Political and practical considerations, analysts say, will weigh heavily in choosing the remaining 24 members of the Upper House.

Former speaker of the house Abdul Latif Arabiya, who failed in his bid for re-election, could be appointed to the Senate. The political background of Dr. Arabiya, however, is expected to be taken into consideration in choosing other senators.

Senators are appointed by His Majesty the King and can serve as ministers.

While no official confirmation could be obtained, most observers expect all former prime ministers and heads of the armed forces to be included in the new Senate. Accordingly, former prime ministers Bahjat Al Talhoun, Ahmad Al Lawzi, Mudar Badran and Ahmad Obaidat are expected to re-

main in the Senate, and Zeid Rifai, who is not serving in the current Senate, is expected to join the new Upper House.

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Although most observers expect leaders of political

parties to be excluded from the Senate, they say the major political trends in the country, the liberals, conservatives and Islamists, will be represented. IAF Secretary General Ishak Al Farhan is not therefore expected to be reappointed to the Upper House.

Observers who support excluding members of political parties from the Senate say that the Lower House provides parties with the chance to become members of parliament through elections.

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(Continued on page 3)

Fatah agrees on pluralist, free-market state

TUNIS (Agencies) — The mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Monday the future Palestinian state would be based on pluralist democracy and a free-market economy.

Fatah's 107-strong Revolutionary Council endorsed the principles at a weekend meeting chaired by PLO and Fatah leader Yasser Arafat, the PLO news agency WAFA said.

The talks are running in parallel with negotiations in Egypt on the Israeli military withdrawal from the territories, covering issues such as the definition of "Jericho" and the number of Israeli troops to remain in Gaza to protect settlers.

The two-day meeting at the Kleber conference centre in Paris beginning Tuesday will be the inaugural session of an economic committee established in the accord on self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area.

Both sides said it would set a political framework for economic cooperation between the Jewish state and the new self-governing Palestinian authority.

Israeli officials said they were ready to begin immediately discussing practical economic issues such as the tax system in the new self-governing territories, trade between Israel and the Palestinians and development projects.

But it was not clear whether the Palestinians would be ready. The talks were to have begun on Monday but were postponed at the PLO's request, apparently partly because of continuing differences in Tunis over PEDRA's structure and powers.

Mr. Arafat worried international aid donors and some Palestinian critics by appointing himself head of PEDRA's council — the main body re-

sponsible for economic and financial control of the territories.

Donors insisted at Nov. 5 talks at the World Bank office in Paris that the Palestinians ensure transparency and accountability to ensure a planned \$2 billion in aid over the next five years was spent rapidly and efficiently.

Palestinian sources said Mr. Kurea was trying to persuade Mr. Arafat to amend PEDRA's structure to make clear that day-to-day executive power would be in the hands of economic experts in the territories.

Israeli officials said they were ready to begin immediately discussing practical economic issues such as the tax system in the new self-governing territories, trade between Israel and the Palestinians and development projects.

A Palestinian body will be set up to tackle environmental problems in the occupied territories, a U.S. negotiator at multilateral Middle East talks said Monday.

The Middle East environment meeting opened in Cairo Monday and was to continue Tuesday.

Theodore Feifer, deputy head of the U.S. delegation, said the United States, the European Community, Russia and Japan wanted to discuss the establishment of such a body with the Palestinians.

It was the first time the United States and Russia had backed the idea, put forward

Christopher to visit Mideast next month

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher will go to the Middle East next month to try to mediate differences between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) over their fragile agreement and Israel and Syria.

Mr. Christopher also will try to finalize an accord between Israel and Jordan.

The complex mission could determine the course of Middle East peace-making and test the Clinton administration's skill on another foreign policy front.

The State Department spokesman, Michael McCurry, announced Mr. Christopher's plan to go to the area. Officials said the trip probably would be scheduled for early December, just before the Dec. 13 deadline for Israel and the PLO to complete arrangements for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Syria said earlier Monday Mr. Christopher will tour the Middle East at the start of December in a bid to boost the Arab-Israeli peace process.

U.S. President Bill Clinton sent a message informing Syrian President Hafez Al Assad of Mr. Christopher's scheduled tour, the official news agency SANA said.

U.S. ambassador to Syria, Christopher Ross, transmitted the message via the Syrian foreign ministry, SANA said.

It covered the "American efforts to reach a comprehensive peace" in the Middle East, the agency said.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Assad spoke twice by telephone in September following the Israel-PLO peace agreement, which Syria said broke Arab solidarity.

Mr. Christopher last toured the Middle East in August, and the State Department's Middle East coordinator, Dennis Ross, visited the region last month to try to breathe new life into the stalled Syrian-Israeli talks.

Middle East News

Israel must move before talks resume — Khaddam

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Israel must alter its stance if the stalled peace talks with Syria are to resume in Washington, Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam told foreign reporters on Sunday.

"Israel must reconsider its position in such a way that the Washington discussions can be resumed," he said, adding that the international community should pressure the Jewish state into changing.

"To date, we have not heard a single word from Israel saying it accepts a complete withdrawal" from occupied Arab territories, Mr. Khaddam said, reiterating Syria's position on "total peace against total withdrawal" as well as the need for "comprehensive peace."

"The international community must pressure Israel so that it respects United Nations resolutions and the Madrid (peace conference) formula," he insisted.

The terms of reference at the October 1991 Madrid conference, the framework for the Washington talks, are based on the principle of the exchange of land for peace, along with

U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

"Advancement towards peace cannot be one-sided. The Arabs have moved more than enough. The Israeli party must move," Mr. Khaddam insisted.

No date has been set for the resumption of the Washington talks. Syria insists on maintaining the negotiations' bilateral framework in Washington, while Israel is seeking secret talks to break the current deadlock over the Golan Heights.

Syria has demanded a pledge from Israel that it will withdraw completely from the Golan Heights while Israel wants a commitment from Syria for "total peace" with open borders and diplomatic means before debating the scope of a withdrawal from the Heights.

"If there is no serious progress on the part of the Israelis towards accepting a complete withdrawal from our occupied territories, it's hard to envisage a resumption of the negotiations since they are not an aim in themselves but only a means

to attaining a settlement," Mr. Khaddam said.

He added that in two years the negotiations had not resolved any problems.

"Nobody in the region wants war... but, of course, if the doors to peace are tightly shut, the region will once again face instability," he warned.

Earlier, Syrian newspapers slammed what they described as a U.S. "bias" towards Israel, which they said was demonstrated during Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Washington.

Following talks with Mr. Rabin in Washington Friday, U.S. President Bill Clinton said he had "renewed America's unshakable pledge to maintain and enhance Israel's quantitative security edge."

He also urged Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to give a clear green light to peace.

On Saturday, Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Tlas said Israel was mistaken if it thought the Arabs could be forced into giving up their land and rights and accused it of trying to derail the peace process.

Clerides wants U.N. to quash breakaway state

ATHENS (AP) — Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides called on the Security Council Monday to end the partition of his war-divided island by dissolving the breakaway state in the Turkish-occupied north.

His call was made as he flew here for consultations with the Greek government on the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of the Turkish Cypriot state Nov. 15, 1983.

"This is a symbolic day marking the sad anniversary of the proclamation of the pseudo-state which was declared illegal and invalid by the U.N. Security Council," he told the Associated Press in an interview during his flight to Athens from Nicosia.

The breakaway state has only been recognised by Ankara.

Mr. Clerides said it was important that the Security Council should go a step further than calling on all U.N. member states not to recognise the breakaway state.

"The Security Council should take appropriate action for its dissolution," Mr. Clerides said.

is said without elaboration. "I would have been happier if the Security Council had been more determined to defend legality in Cyprus over the past 10 years, since it itself branded the establishment of a breakaway state both illegal and invalid," he said.

Cyprus has been unofficially partitioned since 1974 when Turkey seized its northern third in the wake of a brief coup by supporters of union with Greece.

The Security Council blames the Turkish side for the deadlock in the U.N.-sponsored negotiations between Mr. Clerides and Rauf Denktash, the president of the breakaway state.

Mr. Denktash and Ankara reject a series of Security Council resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the estimated 35,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 mainland settlers from the north, insisting on the prior recognition of the breakaway state.

Mr. Clerides said the Turkish rejection of the U.N. resolutions "makes it clear they

do not want a settlement (on this basis). They want recognition of the pseudostate."

He added that his call for stronger United Nations action is backed by the Security Council, which has warned it will adopt alternative ways of ensuring implementation of the council resolutions if the deadlock continues. The council did not specify what it might do.

Mr. Clerides came here for consultations following Socialist Premier Andreas Papandreou's election victory over the conservatives last month.

KABUL (AFP) — Two foreign journalists captured one week ago in a combat zone east of Kabul were freed Monday.

New Zealander Terence White of Agence France-Presse and American John Jennings of the Associated Press were in good health although they had been roughed up by their captors.

Mr. Jennings had a shrapnel wound to his left foot.

They were released from the Hezb-e-Islami headquarters of Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in Charasyab, 25 kilometres south of Kabul, where they had been taken Sunday from another Hezb-e-Islami base.

They returned to Kabul around midday Monday.

The two men were captured Nov. 8 by Hezb-e-Islami forces near Tagob, 60 kilometres northeast of Kabul where the two main factions — Hezb-e-Islami and forces of former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud — have been fighting for two weeks.

They were on a press trip with a group of Mr. Masoud's forces when they were ambushed by Hezb-e-Islami forces three kilometers south of Tagob. During the shooting Mr. Jennings was hit by shrapnel in his left foot.

Both journalists were beaten after their capture by Hezb-e-Islami fighters who thought they were military advisers. Many Hezb-e-Islami people

believe French military advisers are helping Mr. Masoud's troops. The front-line fighters who beat them were smoking hashish.

The same night they were taken to a military base near the frontline from where they saw government planes raining cluster bombs all over the Tagob Valley.

On Tuesday they were taken further south to another Hezb-e-Islami base above Naghlu Dam where they were kept Wednesday through Saturday until Gulbuddin Hekmatyar sent a jeep for them on Sunday.

During an interview with the two journalists, Mr. Hekmatyar apologised for any rough treatment they had suffered and for the fact that they had been kept prisoners.

The two journalists have no explanation for their late release other than bad communications within the Hezb-e-Islami forces and also some statements by Radio Kabul trying to use them as a political tool against Hezb-e-Islami.

Mr. Hekmatyar told the journalists that both camps were trying to arrange a ceasefire. Heavy fighting has taken place between Masoud and Hekmatyar forces in the valley for two weeks. Mr. Hekmatyar has proposed that "an authorised judicial delegation should be constituted to examine all the issues between Hezb-e-Islami and its adversaries."

Three wells have been built in the camp which has a school attended by 800 pupils and recreational facilities.

"They started to have a normal life," he said.

They are among the 60,000 refugees eager to go home once a settlement is reached in Somalia, he said.

Mr. Ouanes said 35,000 Somali refugees of Yemeni origin and those holding Yemeni passports were staying in slums near Aden.

The UNHCR is providing them with what it calls "one-time assistance" including a school, dispensary and a plan to connect the area to the public water network, Mr. Ouanes said.

Yemen is not incurring any costs to host the refugees.

About 5,000 refugees are staying in Mukalla in the south. More than 1,000 of them receive food and the others shelter.

The rest of the refugees are staying in other areas including Aden and Sanaa.

Mr. Ouanes said more than half the refugees are from Mogadishu and the rest from coastal cities.

"All are eager to go back to their country," he said, but did not say when that would be.

Hekmatyar forces free two Western journalists

Yemen's 'Little Mogadishu' enjoys peace

SANA (R) — Somali refugees fleeing anarchy and starvation are living together peacefully in camps in Yemen, avoiding the factional rivalries which tore their own country apart, a United Nations official said.

About 10,000 refugees

from clans which are feuding in Somalia are living together

in a southern Yemeni camp

they have dubbed "Little Mogadishu", Taoufik Ouanes said.

"We have been able to

maintain a very peaceful atmosphere despite the factions and the political problems," Mr. Ouanes, representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Yemen, told Reuters.

Mr. Ouanes said the refugees who fled to Yemen in packed boats in the summer of 1992 at the peak of Somalia's civil war were now in "very good condition."

The UNHCR, with a \$9.5 million budget for 1993, was

providing various services to

the refugees. The 10,000

Somalis refugees in Aden, 45

kilometres from Aden, re-

ceive food, medicine, school-

ing and vocational training,

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Round table meeting will seek to promote Jordan's role as a regional economic centre

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Hashemite Association for International Economic Cooperation (HAIEC) will hold a four-day round table meeting in Amman on Nov. 20 to help promote Jordan's role as a regional economic centre under the slogan: "Jordan: Middle East Gate and a Window on the World."

The announcement was made Monday by Maan Thubian, association executive president, who said that the meeting will also focus on the association's role in promoting the Jordanian economy.

The round table, to be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Vladimir Chomiko, First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, will draw attention to the need to

promote economic and trade relations between Jordan and Russia, said Mr. Thubian.

"Our association was established six months ago following Prince Hassan's meeting with a number of Jordanian investors and businessmen," he said.

"Since the meeting we have made contacts with the Russian leadership and carried out studies to determine Russia's needs following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, in order to promote Jordan's trade with that country," Mr. Thubian added.

He said that the survey of the Russian markets showed that the country was in need of expertise in banking, insurance, accountancy, marketing and management, which was costly to import from the West, but available in abundance in Jordan which is looking for new markets

abroad.

The Russian leadership has expressed willingness to cooperate with Jordan which could help the Russian economy in its transitional period and has decided to despatch a high-level delegation representing the private and public sectors to meet with Jordanian business people and discuss scopes of bilateral cooperation, added Mr. Thubian.

He said the association has issued invitations to Jordanian firms, banks, businesses and other economic establishments to take part in the round table meeting with the Russian team.

Mr. Thubian explained that the HAIEC is a non-governmental gathering of investors, business persons and legal experts who attained distinguished professional achievements on the international level and who seek to identify investment opportunities and to cooperate either in the areas where they undertake their activities or in the areas they wish their activities to cover.

Referring to the association's objectives, he said that the HAIEC strives to get its members acquainted with one another and cooperate and organise meetings with decision-makers in official and private organisations in order to identify available investment opportunities; to establish an international arbitration centre; and to organise the exchange of expertise among states.

He said the association is seeking to collect investment information, statistical data, legal documents and economic studies related to investment opportunities; to establish an international arbitration centre; and to organise the exchange of expertise among states.

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The time has come for the Arab World to create a strong national industry based on its extensive resources and available wealth and trust in its intrinsic capabilities in order to attain progress, said Mohammad Abdul Aziz, dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Jordan, which hosted the meeting.

The Arab World possesses vast natural resources and raw materials, as well as skilled manpower needed for advanced industry based on modern technology, said Dr. Abdul Aziz.

Referring to the situation in Jordan he said that the country's skilled manpower and natural resources contributed to the major strides in its modern industrial sector, which he said, competes with similar industries of the world.

Yousef Assaf, head of the Industrial Engineering Department, said that the use of modern technology has become a condition for development, especially in the Third World.

Industry, he added, has become the pillar of the national economy of developing nations.

The share of controls and instrumentation can be as high as 25 per cent of the total fixed capital in modern industrial systems, he said.

Furthermore, with the wide diffusion of microprocessors and applications, the design, maintenance and services of control systems require higher and more technical skills than need continuous training and

up-dating, he said.

A quick review of the situation in the Arab countries, said Dr. Sharif, reveals the increasing diffusion of microprocessor controls and applications as well as other sophisticated instruments in various fields and sectors. These are being increasingly used in the petroleum, chemical, phosphate, cement, iron, steel and textile industries, as well as in hospitals, universities and research centres, added Dr. Sharif.

Experts from ESCWA member countries are taking part in the meeting which was organised jointly by ESCWA and the United Nations Industrial

Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Experts from both U.N. agencies along with those of Arab states are to discuss ways and means of enhancing the technical capabilities in the Arab countries to install, operate and maintain the latest automation instrumentation and microprocessor controls.

The participants will also study the necessity and feasibility to establish a regional instrumentation service centre in one of the Arab countries.

The Syrian government has expressed serious interest in hosting and supporting such a

Visiting Chinese official says Beijing keen to cooperate on water utilisation

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of a Chinese team which Monday held talks with government officials said that his country was willing to cooperate with the Kingdom in a variety of sectors and promote trade links.

Rao Chun Zhao, deputy director general of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, said that China was most specifically willing to cooperate with Jordan in the utilisation of water resources.

The Chinese team held meetings with Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad and senior assistants focusing on means of promoting trade and launching joint ventures with Jordanian businesspersons.

Urging the Chinese to help adjust the balance of trade which is in favour of China, Mr. Awad said Jordan hopes China will increase its imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash.

According to ministry sources, Jordan and China signed their first trade agreement in 1978, but upgraded it

following 1985 and 1991 joint Jordanian-Chinese committee meetings.

The ministry said China and Jordan exchanged products worth \$50 million in the first eight months of 1993.

According to the statement, Mr. Awad briefed the Chinese team on incentives offered to foreign businesspersons investing in the Kingdom and also spoke about the difficulties that face the national economy over the past few years.

Yousef Assaf, a representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) told the opening session of the three-day meeting that control equipment and instrumentation are becoming increasingly crucial in industrial production and service systems.

The share of controls and instrumentation can be as high as 25 per cent of the total fixed capital in modern industrial systems, he said.

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In'am Mufti to receive award for role in promoting Arab women

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of Noor Al Hussein Foundation In'am Mufti will leave Amman for New York today (Tuesday) where she will receive the National Organization of Arab-American Women's (NOAAW) "Award for the Promotion of Arab Women" and be a distinguished participant at a conference on "Women in Leadership Roles."

NOAAW's two-day conference, which will be held at the United Nations, will focus on the similarities and differences among the experiences of prominent women in the United States and the Third World.

Key participants and

speakers include women who have held high political offices, heads of the United Nations development agencies and academics among others.

"Mrs. Mufti, who in 1979 became the first Jordanian woman to hold a ministerial position, is among two women from the Arab World and two Arab-American participants who will be honoured by the NOAAW for their efforts in enhancing the status of Arab women."

NOAAW was founded in 1992 as a feminist organisation by a group of women academics, scientists, development workers, writers, executives, artists and others

In'am Mufti in the United States.

The organisation's goals include sponsoring women's studies and development projects for women as well as establishing relations with other women's organisations.

Ministry plans for Madaba community centre

MADABA (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development plans to establish a community centre in the Bani Hamida villages of the Madaba District, according to Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour.

Making the announcement during a tour of the Madaba area, the minister said the estimated JD 45,000 project would be covered by the ministry's 1994 budget and financing from the Industrial Development Bank (IDB).

Noting that the designs for the construction of the project have been completed, Dr. Sqour said that work on the community centre, which would provide facilities for various social activities, was expected to start early next year.

Dr. Sqour also announced that his ministry plans to set up a similar centre for the Shawabkeh cluster of villages in the Madaba area.

The minister attended a graduation ceremony for groups of women who successfully completed training courses in sewing in two local charitable societies.

Dr. Sqour called on the 28 societies operating in the Madaba region to benefit from the Jordan Cooperative Organisation markets set up in their region to market their products and so help finance the societies' activities.

At the outset of the tour, the minister was briefed by Hashem Faouri, the district governor, who outlined present social services in the district and the charitable societies' needs.

The workshop was opened at the Information Training

Centre at Jordan Radio and Television Corporation by Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar who outlined the role of Jordan Radio and Television in the field of communications, and thanked UNICEF for organising the meeting in Amman.

The discussion, noted the statement, focused on the

method of direct burning of shale to produce steam which could be utilised to generate electricity. It said that according to experts' views, the burning was quite safe and caused no danger to the environment.

The assessment and discussions in this regard, conducted with experts from a Swedish company Monday, revealed that Jordan has an estimated 40 billion tonnes of oil shale, equivalent to or capable of producing 35 billion barrels of oil as well as sulphur.

A study conducted by the NRA in the early 1980s found that oil shale deposits in the country are very rich and among the best in the world.

Shamvili to bring Beethoven, Chopin and Schumann to Amman

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tonight (Tuesday) Regina Shamvili will sit at the keyboard to play Beethoven, Chopin and Schumann.

The recital, to take place at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), is presented by the National Music Conservatory — Noor Al Hussein Foundation, in cooperation with the American Center in Amman.

Born in the Soviet Union Ms. Shamvili studied, worked and lived there until 1983. She was already a world-class performer when living in Moscow, but was prohibited from playing abroad. Ms. Shamvili now lives in the United States.

Reviews of her performances by the world press may seem exaggerated at first sight, but when critics agree and use superlative terms to

describe her talent, one has to believe them.

"It was as though Clara Schumann herself had appeared on the stage," wrote a Czech journalist.

"She has an internal fire, grace and virtuosity. She is gifted with a rare lyricism,"

another, were not active during the term of the current Senate will not be re-appointed," said one observer. "These senators," he said, "are expected to be replaced with people who can contribute more to the legislative and political process in the Kingdom."

He expected the 17th Senate to include more legal experts than its predecessors did in order to make up for the limited number of deputies, said one prominent lawyer who asked not to be named.

Experts who can fill the gap. The Senate has traditionally acted as a balancing factor and guarded against having legislation influenced by the political inclinations of deputies, said one prominent lawyer who asked not to be named.

Observers also expect the new Senate to be injected with personalities who can effectively deal with the political and economic requirements of what one observer called "the crucial era through which Jordan is passing."

"Many of the senators who, for one reason or

another, were not active during the term of the current Senate will not be re-appointed," said one observer. "These senators," he said, "are expected to be replaced with people who can contribute more to the legislative and political process in the Kingdom."

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CONDOLENCES

The staff of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington D.C. deeply mourn the passing away of

MR. JAMIL MUASHER

father of their colleague and director, Dr. Marwan Muasher. Our thoughts and hearts are with the Muasher family.

Jamil Issa Muasher

father of our friend and former colleague Dr. Marwan Muasher

May his soul rest in peace.

CONDOLENCES

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing away, at the age of 72, of

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An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1971

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 6671716, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAJ JO

Faximile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

No man is an island

WITH THE mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation reformists flexing their muscle and Palestinian opposition mounting pressure on the PLO leadership, there are increasing fears that unless the Palestinian house is put in order the Palestinian-Israeli accord could effectively be derailed. The fallout from any such event would undoubtedly affect the Jordanian-Israeli track as well as the Israeli-Syrian-Lebanese fronts. There is therefore a lot at stake for all the parties in the current conflict within the PLO; and unless this situation is addressed, there is every risk that the entire peace process could be stalemated.

The central issue for the PLO reformists is Chairman Yasser Arafat's style of governing the operations of the Palestinian organisation, including its decision-making process, especially his handling of negotiations with the Israelis. There is nothing new in Arafat's not-very-democratic style of running Palestinian affairs as this personalised leadership has been the hallmark of his rule ever since he assumed the leadership of the PLO more than two decades ago. In retrospect, the grumbling of disgruntled PLO people should have started a long time ago if their concern about the introduction of democracy to their national institution is so genuine. Granted that democracy and democratically-taken decisions, would be infinitely better for the Palestinian cause than autocratic measures and policies, one would still question the timing of sounding the alarm; what is holding one back, though, is the fact that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have reached a critical stage necessitating wider base and participation. The PLO, as a revolutionary movement, was not expected to enjoy the kind of democratic institutions as self-governing independent states do. Now that the PLO has turned to negotiations, instead of armed struggle, to attain Palestinian rights, there is plenty of room for real consultations among the leadership, especially when the Palestinians are being asked to make historic and binding commitments for themselves as well as for their future generations.

This is true even though effective leadership is also called for because bureaucratic inertia and self-interest could affect the decision-making process, rendering the PLO unable to respond to challenges or make daring moves that are clearly necessary if the peace talks are to reap meaningful results. A balance between effective and forceful leadership and wider consultations needs to be struck simply because the issues are so formidable that no one man is capable of deciding on them on his own. At this crucial stage in Palestinian history there are decisions that require decisiveness and speed. And it is always the prerogative of the leadership to take these decisions even in the most democratically-run governments. Democracy cannot and should not be confused with indecision provided that prior to making a decision there are democratically-held discussions. That is about all that most of the genuine reformists are asking for. More than that could mean that "reformists" are in league with the opposition, under the guise of wanting democracy within the PLO. Arafat is called upon to rectify this confusing state of affairs by loosening up his sole grip on the PLO and incorporating the real reformists in the decision-making process.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Monday urged the government to turn its attention to pressing domestic issues, having given most of its attention so far to political matters and the democratic process. There can be no more justification for further delaying handling domestic affairs, including economic and administrative issues as these are the paramount importance because they affect all public sectors, said Mohammad Daoud. There is urgent need for stimulating the economic activity in accordance with a plan to be drawn up by specialists from the public as well as the private sector and there is need for the development of the public administration in a manner that would most efficiently serve the national goals, demanded the writer. No political strategy, no matter how carefully it is planned, can have a positive effect unless it is backed by a strong national economy and a modern public administration that can cater to the requirement of the modern age, the scientific and technological progress and other changes and developments, stressed the writer. What is needed in the public administration sector, said the writer, is qualified cadre that can skillfully manage government business and cater to the needs of the urgent requirements of the present and the future.

A WRITER in Al Dustour described the hopes and the optimism that rose with the signing of the PLO-Israel deal on Sept. 13 as false and deceptive. Mazen Hammam said that the Palestinians achieved nothing with this deal and could not even secure the release of the detainees from Israeli jails. In fact Israel is using the detainees to pressure the PLO, into accepting Israel's will and dictates, he added. It is no secret that the PLO is awaiting the release of the 13,000 detainees in order to get credit in the eyes of the Palestinian people after the PLO-Israeli deal and therefore the PLO has all the right to insist that the detainees — be freed before Dec. 13 when the 5% of the Israeli withdrawals is supposed to occur, said the writer....

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

Jordan's Islamists — a growing force or a fading footnote?

The significant decline in the strength of the Islamists in the Jordanian Parliament — in sharp contrast to the rising power of Islamists in other parts of the region — is an important phenomenon that should be appreciated because of its implications for other Arab/Islamic countries. The decline of the Islamists is not surprising, however; it was expected and was easily predictable, if one assessed the phenomenon of Islamist politics in its full dimensions — as an indigenous movement of protest and challenge in the face of severe economic, political and social pressures. I would suggest the following reasons for the Islamists' decline:

1. The main weakness of the Islamists is that they were unable to make the transition from the 1980s to the 1990s. In this election they blindly repeated the emotional slogans that they had used so effectively to challenge governments and ruling oligarchies in the 1980s, in Jordan as well as in other Middle Eastern lands. But the tactics of social sentimentalism, religious identity, and bold political fearlessness that worked well for the Islamists in the 1980s were out of place and outdated in the 1990s.

The voters today want more than comforting slogans; they want effective programmes that can respond to their daily needs in fields such as education, housing, food and fuel prices, jobs, water, telephones, and other practical issues. The Jordanian Islamists have so far largely failed the test of practical politics. Whether in parliament or during their brief experience in the government of Mudar Badran, they have proved unable to make the transition from charismatic challengers of government power to effective wielders of government power.

"The Islamists were the only viable option for venting opposition in the 1980s; but in the 1990s, they found themselves huddled with 20 other political parties and scores of tribal alliances. People could write more freely in the press and speak in public meetings. The political and emotional pressures that had generated support for the Islamists in the 1980s were diffused after 1989, and this hurt their support base."

Their experience in the Badran cabinet was most instructive; not only did they do a mediocre job in the ministries they held, but in some cases (such as education) they also succeeded in generating organised counter-protest movements against their policies. It became obvious at that point that they were not only more comfortable in the opposition; they were also likely to self-destruct if they remained in positions of executive authority. They were good challengers, but weak ideas men and lousy administrators.

2. The liberalisation and initial democratisation of the Jordanian political system has eroded their constituency. Their appeal in the 1980s had stemmed largely from the degradation, humiliation and indignity that ordinary people in the Middle East felt at the hands of top-heavy, autocratic, often authoritarian states run by families or individuals. When they were the only indigenous, credible, active folks challenging the old system, the Islamists attracted much support. They were, indeed, a daring, charismatic crowd in the 1980s, and a very necessary counterforce to the oligarchic abuse of power that was destroying the Arab World.

When King Hussein recognised that the prevailing Jordanian power structure was untenable and not sustainable, he relaxed the domestic political system, and thus the Islamists

lost a key source of their support. They no longer had to challenge the regime or the system from outside; they had to play by the rules, and show that they could do better than the power structure they were challenging. They have been unable to do this in a convincing way — so far.

When the Islamists made the transition from the House of God to the House of Parliament, they relinquished most of their spiritual halo and much of their political appeal. They were transformed from sacred political sages into just another bunch of street politicians splashing around in the parliamentary mudpuddles; they joined the rest of the politicians who were making deals, compromises, coalitions and promises in the hope of winning votes.

3. The advent of a pluralistic political system with 20 other parties provided novel options for those discontented voters or political activists who wanted to express their opposition to the government. The Islamists were the only viable option for venting opposition in the 1980s; but in the 1990s, they found themselves huddled with 20 other political parties and scores of tribal alliances. People could write more freely in the press and speak in public meetings. The political and emotional pressures that had generated support for the Islamists in the 1980s were diffused after 1989, and this hurt their support base.

4. The relative economic improvements in 1992 and 1993 took votes away from the Islamists, whose support had relied on a combination of political discontent and economic discomfort. The graph of rising political support for the Islamists in the 1980s coincided almost perfectly with the decline in real personal incomes and living standards in the 1980s. The economic adjustment programme launched in 1988 caused many people to suffer, and thus it strengthened Islamist support in the 1989 election; but the economic gains that were registered in 1992-1993 (partly as a result of the adjustment programme) reversed this process, and drew votes away from the Islamists.

5. The Islamists' political performance during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis was a blow to their credibility and support base; they promised victory on the basis of blind emotional hocus-pocus and some equally vague political mumbo-jumbo. This poor act was followed up by an equally unimpressive performance in their opposition to the 1991 Madrid peace talks, the 1992 deportation of 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon, and the 1993 Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles. In all three cases, the Islamists (usually with equally ineffective leftist support) tried to generate mass political protests; but the masses were unimpressed, uninterested, or too busy with other, more pressing priorities.

Clearly, the majority of people supported the Jordanian government's and the PLO's diplomatic negotiations with Israel. The Islamists were bellowing the fire of the 1960s and promising the grandeur of centuries past; the people were assessing the real-life pressures of the 1990s and looking forward to something better in the next century.

6. The experience of Iran and Sudan, where "Islamic regimes" ruled, were not very helpful to the cause of the Jordanian Islamists. The track record of Islamists in power in other Middle Eastern countries was neither very successful in resolving people's day-to-day socio-economic problems nor very comforting in terms of offering domestic political systems that were less authoritarian and more participatory. We had few models to assess in terms of pondering a future "Islamic state" structure; the two we could evaluate in Iran and Sudan were still very problematic. Most voters here who compared the Jordanian system with these visions of "Islamic" states found the Jordanian centrist model far more appealing, and they made their views known in their votes.

7. The change in the voting system to one-person, one-vote clearly hurt the Islamists, just as it hurt the leftists. But I believe the real reason for the drop in Islamist deputies is the

overall decline in their credibility, because they have not been able to change in line with the changing political system in which they operate.

The main lesson of the Islamists' decline in this election, in my mind, is that an open, pluralistic Arab/Islamic political system will a) de-politicise Islam, b) reduce the Islamists' appeal as a daring opposition, and c) force the other competing political, tribal and establishment forces to devise practical programmes that respond to people's day-to-day needs. This should suggest to others in the region that the way to deal with opposition movements is to bring them into the system and let them hand at solving society's problems. The politics of religious and ethnic inclusion seems to work well in Jordan, and it begs to be tried in other lands, such as Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Libya.

Islam, in such a context, will slowly lose its explicit political veneer, and revert to its fundamental role as a religion. If you're looking for parallels of religions that were politicised in order to challenge governing systems and then returned to their religious roles when the political challenge was no longer needed, look at the churches in South Africa and the United States; there are many common political/moral logics in the deeds of folks like Abbas Macan, Ahmad Kofahi, Omar Abdul Rahman, Ibrahim Kilani, Pat Robertson, Ayatollah Khomeini, Fat Buchanan, Abdul Munem Abu Zant, Allan Boesak, Hassan Turabi, Jesse Jackson, Desmond Tutu, and Ishaq Farhan.

"...the Islamists will follow the example of the environmentalists in the West; many of their principles and aspirations will be institutionalised into our daily laws and ways, while their strength as an explicit political force will dwindle into a small hardcore of committed activists who will continue to act as a check on the conscience of society. They shall have enriched society, but not dominated it, for which they will also have our appreciation and praise."

The gradual de-politicisation of Islam does not mean that the Islamists are finished as a political force. They are still a strong bloc. But their core base is threatened by improved economic and political conditions, and their ability to attract new supporters is almost zero, in view of their imprecise programme and the fact that other political options are now available to voters. They must either rise to the challenge and develop a credible political programme that attracts supporters (probably in coalition with the tribal centrists), or they will slowly make their way to the great footnote in the sky where the world keeps its collection of old political movements that glowed brightly for a brief moment, basked in the glow of the cheering masses, and then faded away.

My personal guess is that the Islamists will follow the example of the environmentalists in the West; many of their principles and aspirations will be institutionalised into our daily laws and ways, while their strength as an explicit political force will dwindle into a small hardcore of committed activists who will continue to act as a check on the conscience of society. They will become the Ralph Naders of Jordan, for which they will have our thanks and admiration. They shall have enriched society, but not dominated it, for which they will also have our appreciation and praise.

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Foreign policy is about the national interest

By Henry Kissinger

NEW YORK — President Bill Clinton deserves support for his effort to disengage from Somalia, where the United States had no national interest and should never have become involved militarily. But his deeper challenge is to define a rationale for continued American engagement in regions where the U.S. national interest does compel it.

The president has called attention to this need, but his administration's statements are so muddled as to compound perplexities.

The basic problem is that administration spokesmen, including the president, seem to shrink from any geopolitical or security context for the use of American force, or from any implication that the national interest may sometimes require the application of power.

In its quest for general causes and multilateral action, the administration reflects the attitudes of a generation whose defining experience was the Vietnam war. Convinced that the Vietnam disaster was caused by an excessive concern with national security, they are now trying to submerge the national interest in multilateral ventures.

This point of view misunderstands the past as much as it misjudges the present.

America entered Indochina as it did all wars in the 20th century — on behalf of universal principle, as expressed for example in Wilson's dictum "to make the world safe for democracy." In Vietnam it was on behalf of the doctrine of collective security, to oppose what was judged to be a global Chinese-Soviet military offensive and to safeguard democracy against what was perceived as a global strategy of guerrilla warfare.

The error of Indochina was not that America was too nationalistic, but that its goals were too universal; not that it was too self-centred, but that it was too indiscriminating.

Even during the cold war, when there existed a global threat, it was rarely possible to obtain an international consensus

foreign policy explains the administration's neglect of such traditional instruments of policy as existing alliances, and the scarcity of references in its statements to common interests with other countries — except to carry out an American agenda for such universal causes as human rights, non-proliferation and collective security.

Thus the president's appeal that America must find the "right course" for staying engaged in the world lacks any criteria for what this "right course" is. In their absence, we cannot judge the "unacceptable costs" that the president urges Americans to avoid.

The doctrine of collective security assumes that all nations perceive international problems in the same way and are prepared to run the same risks for vindicating their view. The essence of the new world order is its fragmentation on a national and even ethnic basis. Universal causes, however, are hard to come by.

The error of Indochina was not that America was too universalistic, but that its goals were too universal; not that it was too self-centred, but that it was too indiscriminating.

The fear of having a national

susceptible to its agenda.

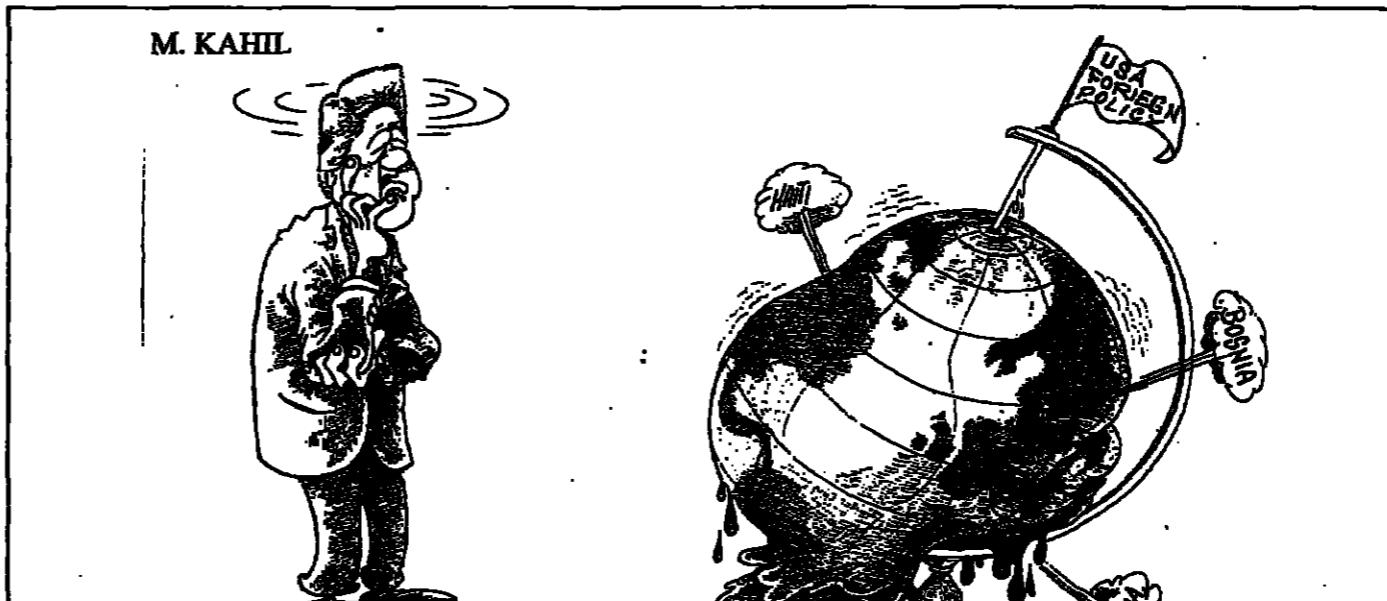
The misery in Somalia was man-made; it was the product of exactly the kind of clan warfare in which the president has said that America should not meddle. I agree, but there

fare that Americans are now being told to abjure.

Once a military conflict exists, the situation on the ground will determine the "political" outcome. If in Somalia a "political" solution implies anything different from the status quo ante, it can be achieved only by military pressure or at least the threat of it. In other words, debacle was inherent in the initial intervention, which was doomed from the start to end in Somali domestic chaos and starvation, or in American involvement in a Somali civil war.

Administration statements continually cite Cambodia as an example of a successful United Nations-led "political" solution. In fact, Cambodia proves the opposite point. No other country has been so exhausted by military conflict. After 20 years of warfare, all the parties had come to the end of their ropes. The "political solution" reflected the military situation; it was not a substitute for it. The United Nations provided the forum in which the exhausted parties could build a sustainable political process.

If other nations have views compatible with the above, America should welcome their cooperation, as in the Gulf war. — International Herald Tribune.



"How are the administration's statements on Somalia to be reconciled with its attitudes towards China and Peru or, for that matter, Russia?"

was never a way of ending the humanitarian mission without either returning to the conditions which had produced the need for it or engaging in nation building. And nation building required the very war-

It is ironic that an adminis-

Jordan has a long and proud history and civilisation

By Dr. Fawwaz Ahmad
Tugan

No place in the Middle East is void of history. Everywhere you look, there is a significant event which once took place or a significant historical figure who passed by here. Everywhere in the Middle East, even in the remotest areas, history is attested. Some places witnessed more events than others. Some places were always the centre, or the heart, of events. Some other places were peripheral to the mainstream of history. Yet, there is no place in our part of the world which did not witness any historical event or did not come under the influence of some historical personality.

Jordan lies in the heart of the ancient world. One is tempted to generalise by saying that Jordan lies at the crossroads of history. No matter how one looks at this term, it is more or less correct.

It was not Jordan's weak status in history that brought to it armies, invaders, migrants; rather, its consecutive civilisations, which were peaceful and non-aggressive, tempted adventurers.

There is no other explanation.

The Fertile Crescent (Mesopotamia, parts of Anatolia, greater Syria) was a crossroad to invading armies from Iran, Greece, Egypt and Arabia. However, Mesopotamia, Babylon and Assyria, and the Hittites in Anatolia, played an aggressive role in history, with dreams of establishing great empires which they accomplished. And they were at the crossroad of history.

The states or kingdoms in our part of the world which had such dreams ended in catastrophe; the Israelites were made captives in Babylon; Queen Zenobia of Palmyra was made captive in Rome.

Jordan, on the other hand, had its own glorious history and important role in the stream of human civilisation. The new theory of the Jordan Valley Civilisation is gaining more converts. Academics are subscribing to the fact that civilisation started in the Jordan Valley some 25,000 years ago. The data recently collected regarding the late Stone Age indicates that an urbanised human polity existed along the Jordan Valley and its two banks before the dawn of history.

Archaeological finds north of Amman ('Ain Ghazzal) proved that urbanised man inhabited the area at least 12,000 years ago. It is worth noting here that Mesopotamia and the Nile Valley theories of cradle of civilisation take us back only to half that period, i.e. to 6,000 years ago.

There are many instances which prove the Jordan Valley theory. I will cite just a few.

Man harnessed fire far back in time. The first known human-made furnace was discovered south of the Dead Sea, dating back to approximately 25,000 years ago.

Man changed his way of living from hunter and food gatherer to producer of food by cultivation of plants and domestication of animals in the Jordan Valley and its two banks. The earliest signs of agriculture were found in this part of the world, the Palestinians, about 10,000 years ago.

The earliest man-made deity (idol) dates back to the same period. We found several of those in the dolmen culture, on the East Bank of the Jordan River.

Man invented pottery 9,000 years ago. The earliest pottery shards were found in Jericho, west of the river.

Man built his first urban community (fortified and organised) in the Jordan Valley around 7,000 B.C.

Man discovered metal and found a way to cast brass, then

strengthen it as bronze, south of the Dead Sea and in the Naqab steppes. The earliest mines date around 5,000 B.C.

This Jordan Valley civilisation which preceded the Nile and Mesopotamia civilisations, it seems, belonged to a unified world culture. In south of Jordan, Kilwa site, rock engravings and drawings are similar in style to those in Libya and Algeria, Tsaly and those of Lascoux caves in southern France. The motifs and representations of human beings and animals apparently belonged to the same civilised people. I would venture to say that by the end of the Ice Age, those people who sought refuge in the warm region of the Jordan Valley felt far more advanced and dared roam the open wilderness of the globe.

Perhaps this very fact of feeling that the world belongs to all peoples was behind their extinction or their melting within the rising civilisations of the Nile Valley and Mesopotamia.

Jordan's recorded history does not go back beyond the Iron Age.

Moab, i.e. Karak, was the first kingdom established in Jordan which enjoyed self-rule. Between 870 and 830 B.C., King Kammunah started a national movement.

It was his son, King Mashia, the Dhibonite, who freed his country from Israelite domination and established a prosperous state. His achievements were carved in the Canaanite

language on a small stele which is now in the Louvre. King Mashia's stele spoke of bounty and prosperity in the land. The ecology was completely different, woods, pastures, streams and herds of sheep were enjoyed by the inhabitants of the two hundred towns which made up the Kingdom of Moab and Dibon/Dibhan.

The Edomites soon established another prosperous kingdom whose seat was in Busara (now in the Governorate of Tafileh), south of Moab. This kingdom lasted several centuries, along with another smaller kingdom in the middle of Jordan, that of the Ammonites, after whose name Amman, the capital, is named (Rabbat Ammūn, i.e. the Ammūn of the ten thousand inhabitants).

However, the most famous and affluent kingdom in Jordan before the advent of Islam was the Nabataean Kingdom.

These south Arabian people who brought with them the elegance of Yemen and the advancements of Arabia Felix, literally carved a unique civilisation which extended to far horizons.

They were merchants, farmers, architects and above all, humane and peaceful people. From Damascus to Medina in the Hijaz, and from Asqalan on the Palestinian coast to the depth of the Jordanian desert, the Nabataeans commanded a rich and stable democracy which lasted four centuries.



Ceramic lamps of the Abbasid/Fatimid period



Ajlun Castle



Funerary stela at Khirbet Al Dhariyah

The Roman conquest in the beginning of the second century A.D. could not put an end to the Nabataean ingenuity. It only diverted them of their independence. A century later, the Romans tried to Romanise the area. They built ten cities on the remains or the ruins of older sites. The common masterplan was similar to Rome. They tried to spread their language, culture and way of life.

This is the period of the Decapolis. Amman was one of the ten cities. It was known by the name of Philadelphia. However, the Roman domination did not last and their efforts to change the cultural identity of the people was a failure. Soon, the country regained its national identity which was a mixture of Arab and Aramaic peoples. The dominant tongue, it seems, was Arabic.

Now Jordan enjoyed stability and prosperity for a long time. The remains of this period are cogent proof to the nature of the way of life which the people enjoyed.

Islam was introduced into Jordan before the Islamic conquests. Jordanian tribes and city dwellers answered to the call of the Prophet and paid allegiance to him before the armed clashes with the Byzantines, 631 A.D. and on. When the Muslims advanced into greater Syria to meet with the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius, they trod amongst their kinship.

The histories of early Islam and Jordan are entwined in such a way that one is tempted, here again, to say that Jordan was the first Muslim polity outside Mecca and Madinah.

An interesting piece of information is worth acknowledging at this juncture. Jordan, as an administrative province in early Islam, comprised northern Jordan and Palestine. On the other hand, Palestine as an administrative province, comprised southern Jordan and southern Palestine. The divisions were latitudinal, rather than longitudinal. In this respect, Haifa, Acre and Tyre (in Lebanon today) were Jordanian cities. On the other hand, Karak, Petra and Aqaba were Palestinian.

Islam co-existed with Christianity in this country through the ages. It was not before the tenth century A.D. that the Muslim population became the majority. During the first four centuries of Islam, Christians in Jordan enjoyed freedom of belief as did all "peoples of the book" throughout the world of Islam.

Here, they felt even closer to the Caliphate which based on the Arabs irrespective of their religion. Jordanian Christians at the time were thoroughly Arab. Many Jordanians of the Christian faith served the Caliphate and some became part of the higher echelons of the state. Mu'awiya, the first Umayyad Caliph married a Christian Arab who gave birth to his heir apparent, later, his successor.

This state of affairs gave Jordan the finest epoch ever in its entire history. The Umayyad achievements in Jordan are remarkable and befitting the greatest Muslim Caliphate. To mention but an example, the Umayyad "desert" castles are magnificent relics that speak of eminence and grandeur: Amra, Hisham Palace in the Jordan Valley, Mshatta and Tubas are but a few of these monuments. The Dome of the Rock, the Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the Umayyad Mosque of Damascus are yet other aspect of the greatness of the Umayyad Dynasty.

After their fall to their cousins, the Abbasids, the Umayyads fled to Spain and established yet a great civilisation in Toledo, Cordoba, Seville and the rest of Andalusia. Jordan was the home of the Umayyads for nearly one century, ending in 750 A.D. There are at least a hundred and fifty-attested Umayyad archaeological sites in Jordan witnessing to the amount of attention these Caliphs paid to Jordan.

The explanation to this attitude is the fact that Jordan is strategically located to govern the vast Islamic Empire. The prosperous and peaceful state of affairs which Jordan enjoyed through the first eleven centuries A.D. was severely interrupted by the crusaders.

The two bloody and sectarian centuries of the crusades awesomely affected Jordan. The military remains of that era exemplified in the gigantic fortresses of Karak, Shobak (Montreal), Rabah and Azraq, to mention but a few, are living aspects of the turbulent years which Jordan and the rest of the Middle East went through.

No sooner were the crusaders expelled than the Mongol hordes appeared from the east. The crusader castles and Sal-

dins military constructions in the area served well Jordan and the rest of the Muslim World in warding off the sweeping plague which devastated all centres of civilisation east of Jordan. In 1260, the Mongols were defeated in Ain Jalut never to return to the area again until they were converted to Islam several centuries later.

The Mamluks, who ruled the Islamic World after Saladin and until the advent of the Ottoman Turks in 1516 A.D., were, themselves, Turks and Circassians from the Caucasus. Jordan was very convenient to them. It served as a backbone stronghold in whose citadels and fertile mountains they sought refuge, stored their surplus grain, treasured their gold, imprisoned their rebellious colleagues and trained their children for leadership and government.

Jordan benefitted a great deal of this situation. The Mamluk leaders reconstructed and developed Jordan to be able to offer those services.

The result was beneficial. Most of all, the pilgrims' route to Mecca through Jordan was safe and offered many advantages.

During Ottoman times, Jordan played almost the same role. It reaped almost the same benefits. It was not until the rise of Turkish nationalism in the Ottoman Empire that Arab provinces, as well as other non-Turkish provinces, suffered oppression, neglect and attention. Jordan, as the rest of the provinces, was treated like a colony. Eventually, the Arabs and other people of the Ottoman Empire, fought for their freedom.

Jordan's role in the Arab Revolt was crucial. The decisive battles between the Arabs and the Turkish armies were fought in Jordan with the help of Jordanian tribesmen and people.

The capturing of Damascus

from the Turkish armies in 1918 by the Arab Revolt freedom fighters lead by Prince Faisal of Hijaz and consisting mostly of Jordanian fighters, announced the dawn of modern Arab independence.

Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Hijaz and Transjordan acquired their independence by 1920. Only Palestine was not fortunate. It was placed under British mandate which eventually facilitated the establishment of Israel and the displacement of the Palestinian Arabs.

In retrospect, all the peoples and civilisations that lived and flourished in Jordan left their indelible marks which are visible in the following main points:

— Jordan was, and still is, a fertile country which was developed internally.

— Jordan was, and still is, a peaceful country which did not seek aggression. Rather, it fell several times victim to outside oppression.

— Jordan played an active role in the development of human civilisation.

— Jordan houses and cherishes many unique relics of the past.

To be a citizen of a country

with such a long and magnificient history is not an easy task. The achievements of the past are always acknowledged in the present; thence the fear of judgment by the people of the future.

It is related in bygone days that a monarch passed by a very old man planting olive trees.

"Do you expect to eat from

their fruits," exclaimed the monarch.

"But of course, not," replied the old man.

"Then why do you waste

your time and efforts?" asked the monarch.

The old man answered:

"They planted so we eat; and we plant so they will eat!"



Shobak Castle

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Harvard University Fellowships for Professionals in Health, Income Security and Social Services

The Institute of Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University promotes regional cooperation in the Middle East through education and research programmes. The Institute's Middle East Educational Fellowship Programme has created a network of regional managers throughout the Middle East who, political conditions permitting, communicate and cooperate across borders. Each year, the institute selects as fellows outstanding professionals from the fields of social services, income security and health.

The fellows participants in the Kennedy School's Mid-Career Master's in Public Administration degree programme, or the Master's in Public Health degree programme at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), as suited to their professional needs. The 10-month fellowship includes tuition and fees, an initial adjustment allowance, individual health insurance, housing and a one-time book allowance.

Candidates should possess the following qualifications:

- At least seven years of substantial professional experience in the fields of health, income security or social services.
- At minimum, a bachelor's degree and a demonstrated ability to perform well in a rigorous, interdisciplinary academic programme.
- English proficiency sufficient to meet Harvard standards, as demonstrated by a TOEFL score of 600.
- Ability to achieve major positions upon their return in government or voluntary sector organisations.

* Please note: Candidates to the HSPH should possess an M.D. and will be required to take the GRE exam. To be considered for funding from this institute, completed applications and official test scores must be submitted by Jan. 10, 1994.

Interested candidates should send a request for an application either for the Kennedy School of Government or the School of Public Health. Candidates should also include a current typed resume to:

Tessa Rowland
Fellowship Director
Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East
John F. Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 U.S.A.

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1993 7

Hoechst earnings plunge

FRANKFURT (R) — German chemical giant Hoechst A.G. has reported a plunge in profits in the first nine months of this year and said it would cut its dividend payout. At the same time the chemicals industry association issued a gloomy new forecast for the whole sector. Hoechst said group pre-tax profit dropped by 39.9 per cent to 924 million marks (\$548 million) in the nine months. Earnings in the third quarter alone fell even more sharply, down 64.8 per cent to 143 million marks (\$85 million). Hoechst's parent company made a loss on core operating activities in the nine-month period and the company said the outlook for the rest of the year was bleak.

The German Chemical Industry Association (VCI) expected 1993 to be the industry's worst year since World War II. It said 1994 would also not be a good year for the industry, which has been suffering from global recession and from German health care reforms that have cut the price of drugs. Hoechst, too, was not optimistic, saying: "Altogether the profit situation in the group will not change by the end of the year. "We expect a seasonal improvement in our American pharmaceuticals business during the last few months of the year," but no recovery in demand is expected yet in Germany. Hoechst Group sales in the first nine months slipped to 37.7 billion marks (\$20 billion) from 34.2 billion (\$20.3 billion).

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	45,720	180.000	178.000	178.000	178.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7,270	180.000	178.000	178.000	178.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	724	32.140	35.010	35.010	35.010
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	19	1.110	1.110	1.110	1.110
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4,765	1.140	1.110	1.110	1.110
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	36,787	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	55,720	1.110	1.100	1.060	1.060
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	270	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	15,118	4.320	4.320	4.320	4.320
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	63,420	1.110	1.110	1.110	1.110
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1,700	1.250	1.250	1.250	1.250
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	20,983	2.450	2.450	2.450	2.450
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3,850	3.400	3.400	3.400	3.400
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	8,937	3.610	3.400	3.380	3.380
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2,970	2.970	2.970	2.970	2.970
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	26,046	2.270	2.250	2.240	2.240
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7,070	2.270	2.250	2.240	2.240
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7,111	4.800	4.850	4.860	4.860
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	9,309	1.210	1.200	1.190	1.190
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4,482	1.210	1.200	1.190	1.190
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	5,315	1.820	1.820	1.820	1.820
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2,110	14.000	13.500	13.300	13.300
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	12,693	2.170	2.160	2.150	2.150
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3,771	23.000	21.850	21.850	21.850
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2,130	1.720	1.720	1.720	1.720
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7,070	1.720	1.720	1.720	1.720
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	10,664	9.900	9.900	9.900	9.900
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	6,460	7.600	7.600	7.600	7.600
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4,482	2.170	2.160	2.150	2.150
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1,472	7.360	7.360	7.360	7.360
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3,771	23.000	21.850	21.850	21.850
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7,111	4.800	4.850	4.860	4.860
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7,135	2.170	2.160	2.150	2.150
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4,774	22.500	21.770	21.770	21.770
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	12,693	2.170	2.160	2.150	2.150
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3,771	23.000	21.850	21.850	21.850
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2,130	1.720	1.720	1.720	1.720
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	7,070	1.720	1.720	1.720	1.720
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Bosnian Muslims retake town

SARAJEVO (R) — Soldiers of the Muslim-led Bosnian army have reoccupied the central Bosnian town of Fojnica, a United Nations military spokesman said Monday.

Muslim troops withdrew to the outskirts of Fojnica at the weekend and advancing Bosnian Croat forces had Sunday appeared poised to take the town, some 50 kilometres west of Sarajevo.

U.N. military spokesman Colonel Bill Aikman told reporters that the Bosnian Croat HVO militia now held the central Bosnian town of Bakovici but Muslim-led Bosnian troops had reoccupied Fojnica Sunday.

The U.N. has expressed concern at the fate of nearly 600 patients at two mental hospitals in Fojnica and Bakovici.

Canadian U.N. troops had been prevented by Muslim units from patrolling Fojnica, but had been allowed to deliver supplies to the hospitals.

Col. Aikman said the U.N. refugee agency would try to deliver two trucks of blankets

and other relief supplies to the area Monday for civilians who may be trapped in Fojnica. However, Fojnica appeared virtually empty of civilians and several hundred had been seen heading for the nearby town of Visoko.

Bosnian Croat forces launched an artillery and tank attack against Muslim army positions in and around the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf Monday, U.N. military sources said.

The sources told reporters that the assault began shortly after 6 a.m. (0500 GMT), with several rockets landing south and east of the town.

Twenty minutes later, artillery joined in and then three tanks engaged Muslim units on a nearby ridge.

A helicopter was thought to be directing the Croat HVO militia artillery fire.

The British U.N. base on the edge of Gornji Vakuf took two artillery rounds within the perimeter, the sources said.

The British peacekeepers are reviewing an emergency

plan to evacuate non-essential staff from the Gornji Vakuf base and to help any refugees fleeing the fighting.

A statement from the Bosnian Croat military authorities, carried by the Croatian News Agency (HINA), accused the Muslims of launching attacks in the Gornji Vakuf area.

In Sarajevo, Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic said he saw no possibility of a multi-ethnic state in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"A Serb, Croat, Muslim Bosnia-Herzegovina as a common state with a common presidency... is not possible," Sarajevo Radio quoted him as saying.

Bosnia's Muslim-dominated parliament has already rejected an international plan to divide the country into three ethnic states.

Mr. Izetbegovic also pledged to carry on fighting. "We have to fight for Bosnia-Herzegovina, because we have a right for it. We have paid a high price."

The Muslim army has notch-

ed up a string of successes against the Croats in central Bosnia in recent months, the latest being the capture of the town of Vares earlier this month.

The Croat attack on Gornji Vakuf came after a weekend marked by HVO advances against the Muslim-led Bosnian government army in central Bosnia.

The HVO took the town of Bakovici Saturday.

The Bosnian army also faced an offensive by Serb troops approaching Olovio, northeast of Sarajevo in Central Bosnia.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) said Sunday that Serbs had captured three Muslim-held villages in the last two days around Olovio, the U.N. has reported. Serb shelling of the town.

U.N. relief officials say a few hundred civilian survivors in Olovio, some of whom fled advancing Serb troops in the hinterland, had been living in grim conditions and no aid had been brought in for two months.



Sri Lankan Air Force personnel watch over assault to end a rebel siege of a military base in the north (AFP photo)

25 Sri Lankan rebels die inside base

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (Agencies) — Sri Lankan troops hunted down and killed 25 Tamil rebels who infiltrated a northern military base after breaking the siege of another base, a military spokesman said Monday.

"By Sunday evening we had killed 25 terrorists we caught inside the camp," he said.

The rebels, disguised as soldiers, had come into the Palaly Airbase in the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula and amphibious landings at the weekend close to the base on the shores of Jaffna Lagoon and linked up with the defenders by Sunday afternoon, the officials said.

They reported government losses of 250 dead with another 500 men missing in action after about 1,000 Tigers attacked the camp Thursday.

The 1,250 troops that rushed to the relief of Poonyern met little resistance after moving in from two beachheads, officials said.

The military said the rebels lost more than 400 of their men, including a number of leaders, in the biggest attack in the 10-year-old conflict.

An LTTE statement in London said 400 government troops and 100 rebels had been killed in the attack on Poonyern. It said rebel forces had captured five boats, two tanks, several heavy weapons,

50 light machineguns and 400 rifles.

It also said the Tigers had told the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) they would hand over the bodies of 300 soldiers and sailors Sunday.

But the ICRC informed the Defence Ministry Sunday that the bodies had decomposed and the ashes of the dead would be sent to the nearest army camps.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in the conflict so far. Several attempts at peace talks, the last in 1990, have failed.

Sri Lanka President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga Monday appealed for calm.

In a message broadcast over the state run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp., Mr. Wijetunga urged people not to be provoked amid an uneasy calm as hundreds of wounded survivors were being brought to the capital Colombo.

The radio also sent out an SOS to doctors and surgeons to treat hundreds of wounded soldiers who survived the attack on the northern Poonyern military complex.

Abortion pill inventor wins U.S. agreement

NEW YORK (R) — The developer of the French abortion pill RU-486 told *Newsweek* he had won a preliminary agreement to allow a group of scientists to make and distribute the drug in the United States. Dr. Etienne-Ernest Baubien, the researcher who developed RU-486, told the magazine in its issue available Monday that he had reached preliminary agreement with Roussel-Uclaf and its parent company, German chemical giant Hoechst AG, allowing him to set up a pharmaceutical firm to make and distribute the pill as soon as it receives U.S. government approval. President Bill Clinton, shortly after taking office in January, directed Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala to review the Food and Drug Administration's ban on RU-486. The ban was instituted during the administration of former President George Bush on the urging of anti-abortion groups. FDA Commissioner David Kessler in April said Roussel had agreed to license the drug to a non-profit research group at a step in eventually marketing the drug in the United States. But while the French company seemed willing to enter the U.S. market, Hoechst appeared reluctant to let it do so.

Romance and canned soups

DUBLIN (R) — Romance is on special offer somewhere between the canned soups and frozen peas of a Dublin supermarket. The store is handing out red roses, wine, chocolates, passion fruit and oysters to encourage single shoppers to get to know each other Thursday night, start of the Irish weekend. Shop assistants encourage introductions and a guitarist serenades shoppers from the croissants display. Said one woman: "This brings a wonderful edge of shopping I think I will come every Thursday. The only trouble is I have already got a husband, so this has all come a bit late."

Exorcism for the queen's bankers

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth's bankers are hoping to exorcise a headless ghost which has spent four centuries in purgatory, haunting their central London premises. The Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported that Britain's most eminent Catholic family, headed by the Duke of Norfolk, will hold prayers for their ancestor Thomas Howard, who was beheaded in 1572 for treason by the first Queen Elizabeth. Howard's ghost, dressed in Elizabethan costume, has often been seen fitting around Coutts Bank in the Strand. A bank director will join the prayers. "Prayers can only help. It is the least we can do for poor Thomas," the family said.

Swordplay at the palace

LONDON (R) — Police arrested knife-wielding man who lunged at a mounted ceremonial guard outside horse guards parade, one of central London's tourist attractions. Queen Elizabeth's lifeguards used swords to disarm the man and police arrested him. "I cannot think of another occasion when the lifeguards have had to use the ceremonial weapons like this," a Ministry of Defence spokesman said. The unnamed man faces charges of wounding a police officer, criminal damage and possession of an offensive weapon.

Dog shoots man

ROME (R) — A hunter was shot by his dog while stalking game in northern Italy, a Rome television station reported. It said the dog stepped on a rifle, triggering a shot which hit the man in his left leg. The wounded hunter, who was not named, underwent surgery and was told he should be back on his feet in two weeks.

Soccer bounty plot

LONDON (R) — A tabloid offered a \$14,780 bounty for each member of the Polish team if they beat the Netherlands — to get the English team into the World Cup finals. The Daily Mirror said it was also promising the English team £10,000 (\$14,780) for each of the seven goals by which they need to defeat San Marino. "If our double incentive does the trick, England will qualify for next year's big event in the United States," said the Mirror. England's players will be asked to pass the cash to charity, but the poorly-paid Poles can keep their money, the Mirror said.

U.S.: South Korea begin joint wargames

SEOUL (R) — U.S. and South Korean troops began a six-day joint military exercise Monday to test logistics and communications in the face of North Korean warnings that war games this week could spark a war.

A South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman said the exercises had begun but Seoul wanted to keep the spotlight off the manoeuvres code-named "Fool Eagle."

"We have nothing to say. All we can say is that the exercise has started, and there are no details," he said.

A U.S. military official said U.S. troops had been flown into South Korea to participate in the rehearsal in regions south of the capital, Seoul.

Fool Eagle rehearses the support functions of running a war, in contrast to the annual Team Spirit exercises when troops simulate frontline action.

"Less than 2,000 additional U.S. troops, mostly from the Pacific and the United States, are participating in the games," the U.S. military official said. "We are not arranging credentials for the press to observe them."

Russian Communists gain in election race — poll

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The pro-Yeltsin Russia's Choice had 12 per cent of voter support, while another pro-Yeltsin party, the Bloc of Three, was in second place with 8 per cent, the poll indicated.

Economic Minister Yegor Gaidar, leader of Russia's Choice, was the most popular leader in the election race with 11 per cent of support, according to the poll.

The Communists got the support of 7 per cent of the 1,200 people polled in 15 Russian cities — a doubling in support, the poll said. No margin of error was provided.

The Communists continue to enjoy the support of officials and others who thrived under the Soviet state. Some older people, anxious for the order and stability of the Soviet system, also back the Communists.

Many Russians are unhappy

about the scale and impact of Mr. Yeltsin's reforms to move the country to a free-market system. The economy has been buffeted by soaring inflation, growing unemployment and other hardships.

Political scientist Igor Klyamkin, commenting on the poll's results on the programme, said Mr. Yeltsin's decision to back away from early presidential elections was significant.

"Hardy had the president renounced his public promises of holding early presidential elections (when) the rating of political outsiders... rose to an all time high" since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, he said.

More than 1,500 hopefuls are trying their luck for 225 constituency seats in the lower house of Russia's parliament to be elected next month, electoral officials said Monday.

The campaign is continuing to enjoy the support of officials and others who thrived under the Soviet state. Some older people, anxious for the order and stability of the Soviet system, also back the Communists.

Many Russians are unhappy

about the scale and impact of Mr. Yeltsin's reforms to move the country to a free-market system. The economy has been buffeted by soaring inflation, growing unemployment and other hardships.

Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolai Ryabov was quoted by Interfax News Agency as saying a total of 1,505 aspirants had applied to stand for the state Duma constituency seats in the Dec. 12

A final list of candidates will be published later this week after millions of public signatures necessary to support the candidates have been counted.

Mr. Ryabov said that 127 of the candidates had up to now been registered as eligible to stand and processing was continuing.

The 225 constituency seats will be decided on a first-past-the-post basis in Russia's first post-Soviet elections.

The other half of the Duma's 450 seats will be decided by a vote on party lists in which 13 political groups have been cleared to take part.

"This vote showed that the

Threats traded on Japan political reform bill

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ruling and opposition parties traded threats Monday, clouding prospects for an 11-hour compromise deal on Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's key political reform package.

Survival of Mr. Hosokawa's fragile coalition depends on the bill's enactment. When Mr. Hosokawa came to power in August, he pledged to adopt the long-delayed measures by year-end.

The promise means he must clear the bills through the lower house by Friday, the day he is due to leave for Seattle to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

The upper house needs about a month to deliberate on the package. Parliament is due to recess on Dec. 15, although, technically, Mr. Hosokawa can extend the session.

If Mr. Hosokawa decides to force a vote in the lower house, a vexed opposition could resort to delaying tactics in the upper house.

The ruling coalition was the first to use a threat Monday. Coalition leaders decided to cut short debate on the reforms in a special lower house committee, setting the stage for a possible forced vote.

Most panel members from

the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) boycotted the session.

LDP headquarters officials said the leadership would revoke the committee membership of two LDP dissidents who took part.

Angered by the government's unilateral decision to cut short the panel's deliberations, LDP Secretary-General Yoshiro Mori twice walked out of a separate high-level dialogue with a coalition negotiator.

"Threatening a committee vote is like sticking a knife at our throats," a furious Mori said. He threatened to suspend talks with the alliance's Yujiro Ichikawa unless the coalition retracted its decision to hasten a vote.

Mr. Ichikawa and Mr. Mori have been bickering since Nov. 5 over details of their rival plans.

Both sides have agreed to introduce British-style single-seat districts, combined with proportional representation.

This format would replace a discredited system of multimember constituencies. The current system often leads parties to field several candidates in one constituency, with each vying to spend more on voters.

The documentary airs Tuesday night on PBS.

Frontline, during a two-year investigation into Oswald's life, found the photos at the home of the Dallas police lab technician, Rusty Livingstone, who developed photos of the latest prints found on the rifle that killed Kennedy.

The photograph was taken in 1955 and was of a group of civilian air cadets in New Orleans, which included a 15-year-old Oswald and Ferrie.

He had made several sets of photos of prints found near the trigger of the rifle, keeping one for himself. Experts at the time said the sets they examined were not clear enough to make an identification and instead based their identification on palm prints found near the rifle's barrel.

There was a week's delay in announcing the identification of the palm prints because the FBI and Dallas Police did not coordinate their efforts and this led some conspiracy theorists to claim that the FBI put the palm prints on the rifle after Oswald was dead.

The Oliver Stone film JFK fuelled that speculation by showing a scene in which an unidentified man put the murder weapon in Oswald's dead body.

The documentary concludes that Oswald was Kennedy's killer and that there is no evidence of his having been part of a conspiracy although it also discovered a photograph of him in a group with David Ferrie, a shadowy figure some conspiracy theorists have linked to a supposed anti-Castro or mafia plot to kill Kennedy.

The palm print was lifted from the barrel, but when the FBI took the rifle to Washington, it stayed in Dallas with Dallas Police and it took days before that was discovered.

Another set of prints — the ones on the trigger guard — had been found on the rifle, but the FBI ruled that they were worthless for identification.

Newsweek conducted an investigation with the Washington Post and CBS News of thousands of pages of secret cables, memorandums and phone records which were released by the National Archives in August.

The article reports that the Warren Commission was cre-

ated to sell the lone-gunner theory — which holds that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy in November 1963 — rather than to determine the truth behind the assassination.

Nonetheless, the investigation concludes it is unlikely that Kennedy was a victim of a Soviet or Cuban-sponsored conspiracy, and that despite the duplicity that permeated government channels in the weeks following the assassination, the Warren Commission's findings were probably correct.

Newsweek reports the commission was the brainchild of Deputy Attorney General Nick Katzenbach, who wrote in a memo that "the public trust must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin."

The file also quote FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, who opposed a federal commission, as telling President Lyndon Johnson days after the assassination "the thing I am most concerned about... is having something issued so we can convince the public that Oswald is the real assassin."

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1993 9

Graf falls to Martinez at Slims of Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Spain's Conchita Martinez snapped Steffi Graf's 45-match winning streak, defeating the top-ranked German 6-3, 6-3 in the final of the \$750,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia Sunday.

Martinez broke Graf's serve three times in the match and was helped by 34 unforced errors by Graf, who had trouble with her backhand throughout the match.

It was the Spaniard's first victory against Graf in 10 career meetings.

The straight-set loss was Graf's second in 77 tour matches this year. She won 66 consecutive matches between June 1989 and May 1990.

Her only other loss this year was to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the final in Hamburg in May.

"Against me, she's played unbelievably all the time, and I (usually) couldn't do anything," Martinez said. "Today I made mistakes, but I also played good and stayed concentrated the whole match."

Graf broke Martinez at 2-2 in the first set, but the Spaniard broke Graf in the next game and again at 4-3, hitting a drop-shot winner on break point to go up 5-3.

Serving at 2-2, 15-40 in the second set, Graf attempted a drop shot that Martinez tracked down and turned into a backhand winner that gave her all the advantage she would need.

"She made very few unforced errors," Graf said, "and she was patient and hit with a

lot of depth so it was difficult for me to do anything."

Graf was playing in her first tournament since undergoing surgery to remove bone spurs from her right foot in early October.

Prior to her surgery, Graf had won seven consecutive tournaments, including the French and U.S. Opens and Wimbledon. Her 45-match winning streak included a walkover against Judith Wiesner at the U.S. Open.

"To tell you the truth, when I got into the tournament I didn't expect to play great tennis," Graf said Sunday. "I was using it as warmup to get in shape for the (Virginia Slims Championships in New York this week).

In winning her fifth tournament title of 1993, Martinez also prevented Graf from setting a single-year record for earnings.

Graf would have broken Monica Seles' record of 2,022,322, set in 1992, with a victory Sunday.

With Sunday's \$75,000 run-up prize, her yearly total stands at 2,578,837, entering the Slims' Championships.

The women's record for consecutive matches won is 74 by



Over 25,000 runners cross the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge at the start of the 1993 New York City Marathon Sunday (APF photo)

Espinosa, Pippig win New York Marathon

NEW YORK (AP) — Soaring autumn temperatures sent as many as 55 runners to hospitals as Mexico's Andres Espinosa and Germany's Uta Pippig won the New York City Marathon.

The unseasonably warm weather — a record 72 degrees (22 degrees Celsius) — caused 27 people to be taken to hospitals from the course and another 28 from the finish area, said Gus Pappas, a spokesman for New York's Emergency Medical Service.

Two runners evacuated from Central Park by helicopter after ice baths failed to revive them and were upgraded to stable condition Sunday night.

They were identified as Peter Zielinski, 26 of Derby, Conn., and Chris Muessel, 35, of Washington, D.C., according to Larry Dugan, a spokesman for Bellevue Medical Centre.

Two of the top women runners, Kim Jones of Spokane, Wash., and Anne Marie Letko of Glen Gardner, N.J., were among those hospitalized and released. Jones had an asthma attack near the 17th mile and dropped out.

"I thought I was going to die," Jones said in a statement issued by race officials, "It was pretty bad."

Letko, eighth in the 10,000 metres at this year's World Championships, was treated for slight dehydration.

Espinosa, a runner-up the past two years, won in 2 hours, 10 minutes and 4 seconds, the sixth fastest time in the world this year, and American runners finished a surprising second and fifth.

Bob Kempainen, 27, of Minnetonka, Minn., was second and Keith Brantly, 31, of Ormond Beach, Fla., was fifth, both with personal bests.

The 30-year-old Espinosa,

who trained in the high altitude near Mexico City, was ready for any weather conditions.

"I was well-prepared for the heat or the cold," he said.

Espinosa was the surprise second-place finisher behind countryman Salvador Garcia in 1991. Then he placed second again last year, nearly 1½ minutes behind Willie Mito of South Africa. This time, Espinosa earned the \$20,000 first prize and a new Mercedes-Benz Sedan, worth about \$42,500.

Pippig, 26, running the race for the first time, led nearly all of the final 20 miles (32 kilometres) in winning the women's division in 2:26:24, below her previous career best of 2:26:53.

No American-born man has won the New York City Marathon since 1979, when Bill Rodgers earned his fourth consecutive triumph. No American-born woman has won since Kim Merritt in 1975.

Sunday's performances were superb considering the temperature reached 70 degrees (21 degrees Celsius) and the humidity was 61 per cent when the lead runners finished the 26-mile, 385-yard (42.2-kilometre) race through the city's five boroughs. Later, the temperature hit a record high 72 (22 degrees Celsius).

Kempainen, a medical student at Minnesota, was timed in 2:11:03, the fastest of the year by an American. It was more than a minute below his previous best of 2:12:12 in finishing second in his marathon debut in the Twin Cities Marathon in 1991.

It was the best finish by an American in this race since Ken Martin also was second in 1989.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Daily warns Turkey against attacking rebels

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian newspaper Monday warned Turkey against launching military strikes on Kurdish rebels hiding out in Iran. "Any action taken against our sovereignty and national security will face a strong reaction from Iran," the Jomhuri Islami daily said. Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller "should be strongly warned not to overstep her limits or she will have added to her problems," it said. Ms. Ciller, in a meeting Friday in Ankara with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeeddin Boroujerdi, proposed that Iran and Turkey root out Kurdish rebels in the Iranian region of Maku, close to the border with Turkey. Otherwise, Ms. Ciller warned, Turkey would act on its own to protect its interests. The prime minister did not elaborate, but the Turkish news media said she had called for unilateral cross-border operations against the Kurds. Jomhuri Islami blamed the Kurdish rebellion in Turkey on "Ankara's weaknesses and abnormalities in its policies."

UAE bans imports of hubara bustard

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has banned the importation of hubara bustards, a favourite among falconers in the Arabian Peninsula, the national news agency WAM reported Monday. The federal cabinet approved a recommendation by the higher environment committee banning the import of dead or live bustards, the agency said. "The decision is in line with international agreements on trade in endangered creatures," it said. Bustards are widely used in the UAE and other parts of the Arabian Peninsula by falconers, enthusiasts of a traditional and popular sport in the Gulf. But several Gulf states have banned the hunting of birds and animals after alarming reports on damage to wildlife. The UAE president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, is financing a multi-million-dollar project at Al Ain Zoo to breed endangered animals and birds and release them back into nature.

Eban sues U.S. town for broken hip

REDWOOD CITY (AP) — Israel's former foreign minister, Abba Eban, has filed suit against the San Mateo Performing Arts Centre for unspecified damages after he fell from a temporary platform where he had been speaking, a newspaper reported. Mr. Eban, 78, suffered a broken hip and was disabled for several months after the fall on Jan. 9, the San Francisco Examiner reported in Monday's editions. Mr. Eban fell when "he stepped off a temporary platform that had been erected on the stage," according to the suit, filed Friday in San Mateo county superior court. The accident resulted from "negligent, careless, wilful or wanton misconduct in creating or maintaining the dangerous and defective conditions," the suit alleges. The San Mateo Union High School district, on whose property the centre is located, and San Mateo County also are listed as defendants. Redwood City is 35 kilometres southeast of San Francisco in Silicon Valley. Mr. Eban was hospitalized for several days at Mills Hospital in San Mateo and then transferred to hospital in New York, according to San Francisco attorney David Baum. Mr. Eban lives in New York City.

Anti-malaria campaign in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese government Monday announced plans to launch a nationwide anti-malaria campaign that will cover all nine states in the country. The cabinet decided to launch the "emergency" campaign on Sunday, the official SUNA news agency said, after ministers heard a report on the spread of malaria in central Sudan from Federal Health Minister Captain Gwak Deng. Last week, a government-owned daily, Al Ingaz Al Watani, reported that 2,879 people died of malaria in one hospital alone in the space of a month and said the disease had taken the form of an epidemic. A federal government official refuted the report, saying it was "irresponsible," but no correction was made in either of the government newspapers. Munir Abarou, head of the epidemic department at the federal ministry in Khartoum, has asserted that "the rise in malaria was seasonal" and that "it is under control."

Afghan minister appeals to Iran for fuel

NICOSIA (R) — Afghanistan's foreign minister appealed for more fuel supplies from Iran on Monday, but the Tehran Times said requests for economic aid were "absurd" from a country whose rulers kept fighting each other. Tehran Radio said President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani met Foreign Minister Hidayat Amin Arsalla and voiced concern about "deterioration of security and stability" in Afghanistan. Mr. Arsalla asked for more fuel aid from Iran to overcome a shortage in the coming winter, it said. The radio quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying Tehran would help Afghanistan's reconstruction but did not say if he specifically replied to the fuel request. The Tehran Times criticised Afghan leaders for engaging in a "futile and devastating civil war" since overthrowing Kabul's communist government in April 1992. "Don't you think that your request for assistance in the rehabilitation of the Afghan economy appears rather absurd when the principal political groups in Afghanistan... are busy planting mines... instead of plowing fields and growing wheat?" it said. The paper, considered close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Afghan leaders should realise that no government in the world is prepared to give financial help to a country "whose leaders can think of nothing but the devastation of their country and the massacre of their citizens."

China air crash killed 11 — agency

BEIJING (R) — At least 11 people were killed and 24 others injured in Saturday's crash landing of a Chinese MD-82 airliner in a field near the western city of Urumqi, according to a Beijing-run news service. The China Northern Airlines plane, on a flight to Urumqi from the northeastern city of Shenyang via Beijing, was carrying 101 people. The China News Service (CNS) said in a report seen on Monday the plane had ditched in a field just outside Urumqi, breaking into pieces on impact and later catching fire. "So far it is known that 11 people have died in the accident," the CNS report said. Airline and civil aviation officials contacted on Monday said they were still unable to confirm the fatalities or make any comment on the cause of the accident.

American missionary kidnapped in Philippines

MANILA (AP) — An American conducting linguistic research was seized by six gunmen on a remote island in the southern Philippines, authorities reported Monday. Sulu provincial police said Charles Walton, 61, of Chicago was abducted Sunday night on the island of Panguitan, 850 kilometres south of Manila. The kidnappers fled aboard two speedboats towards the southwestern island province of Tawi-Tawi and were chased by police in another boat, police said in a report. However, police gave up the chase because of bad weather and a shortage of fuel, the report said. Kent Hirschelman, director for public affairs of the summer institute of linguistics, said Mr. Walton has been doing linguistics research in the Philippines for 20 years.

Serbia foreign minister visits Libya

TUNIS (R) — Serbian Foreign Minister Valdislav Jovanovic is in Libya for talks, the official Libyan news agency (JANA) reported Monday. The Serbian minister was welcomed at his arrival in Tripoli by Libya's Foreign Minister Omar Al Montasser, it said. Libya and Serbia both have been slapped with U.N. sanctions for not complying with U.N. Security Council resolutions. Diplomats said Mr. Jovanovic entered Libya through the land border with Tunisia.

Libya seeks Egypt's help on Lockerbie

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya sought Egypt's help on Monday in an effort to ease new U.N. sanctions clamped on Tripoli for its failure to yield suspects in the Lockerbie plane bombing.

"Egypt has always played a positive role in this issue and we expect Egypt to exert fresh efforts in this connection," Libya's Unity Affairs Minister Joma Al Fezzani told reporters after meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

Mr. Musa was not available to reporters for comment.

Mr. Fezzani denounced as unjust the council's decision to impose fresh sanctions.

"It is unfair for the international community to besiege a country and order its people to go hungry for the mere fact that they want two suspects to stand for trial," he said.

He said Libya had offered several initiatives accepting the principle of trial.

Initial sanctions, including a ban on air travel to and from Libya, were imposed in 1992. New measures which take effect on Dec. 1 freeze Libya's funds abroad and bar the import of equipment used in oil transport terminals and refineries. Oil exports are still permitted.

The aim of the sanctions is to get Libya to turn over the two suspects for trial in Britain or the United States.

The Middle East Economic Survey said the new sanctions would eventually erode Libya's oil operations.

The industry weekly, published in Cyprus, said the sanctions "do not impose any direct impediments on oil exports (but) the new restrictions on the supply of necessary components for oil export and refining facilities could eventually hamper these operations to a significant extent."

The main impact of the ban is expected to be felt in Libya's

refineries, here fires and machinery breakdowns are common, especially in older facilities.

Libya reopens border

Libya reopened its border with Tunisia Monday after a 24-hour closure to protest at the new sanctions, travellers and officials said.

"The traffic is normal today," a local official said by telephone from the Tunisian checkpoint of Ras Ajdir.

On Sunday, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported sit-in protests by local assemblies against the sanctions in Ras Ajdir, on the road to the Libyan capital Tripoli.

Similar protests were held at Umsaad, on the eastern border with Egypt.

JANA did not say explicitly that the borders were closed but the local assemblies, called "basic popular congresses," at the two border checkpoints are composed mainly of policemen and customs officers.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi has for years made a practice of sealing his country off from the outside world for periods of protest against the policies of foreign governments, mainly the West.

With Col. Qadhafi in their midst, "roaring masses" of Libyans demanded that he pull Libya out of the United Nations and shut down its oil day.

The Libyan leader responded enthusiastically in a speech broadcast Sunday on official Libyan radio, shouting: "This is the time of defiance, the time to be determined to win and the time to defend dignity, the future, history and honour."

Col. Qadhafi's appearance at Tajura east of Tripoli was taped a day earlier. The British Broadcasting Corporation, monitored the broadcast Sunday.

In the authenticated communique, Mr. Redjam said,



CELEBRATIONS: Palestinian scouts march in independence of the State of Palestine (AP photo)

FIS threatens French targets

PARIS (AFP) — Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has threatened to strike against French nationals and interests in a communiqué sent to AFP's headquarters in Paris on Monday.

The communiqué, dated Nov. 14 and written in Arabic, was signed by Abdul Razak Redjam, a spokesman for the group's executive council which went into hiding in spring 1992 after the military intervened to scrap the second round of a general election the FIS was poised to win.

Since then, armed fundamentalists have been waging a guerrilla war against the security forces and last month kidnapped three French consular workers in Algiers who were later released.

The French government retaliated last week by launching a nationwide crackdown against suspected Algerian fundamentalists and questioning about 100 people, including the head of a Algerian group close to the FIS.

The man, Jaffar Al Houari, whose organisation the Algerian Brotherhood in France (FAF) is seen a front for the FIS, was placed under house arrest Saturday and three other key figures were indicted.

In the authenticated communique, Mr. Redjam said,

'FIS founder freed'

An FIS founding member has been released by kidnappers who vowed to strike against fundamentalist extremists, the Al Khabar newspaper of Algiers reported Monday.

Mohammad Tijini Boujelha, a mathematics lecturer at Algiers' Bab Al Zouar University, returned home on Sunday evening, the daily paper said, quoting "informed sources."

It gave no details of the circumstances in which Mr. Boujelha was freed and did not say whether security forces had unvermed.

Mr. Boujelha was kidnapped on Nov. 8 after hooded and armed gunmen claiming to be police officers burst into his home late in the evening. His wife Asma told authorities that on Thursday she received an anonymous phone call telling her that her husband was in the hands of a group known as the Organisation of Free Young Algerians and that he was a traitor.

The organisation, which claimed to be anti-fundamentalist, surfaced almost two weeks ago, has vowed to "make supporters of those shedding the blood of Algeria's children pay the price for their action."

COLUMN 8

Diana visits N. Ireland

ENNISKILLEN, Northern Ireland (AFP) — Princess Diana made a surprise visit to Northern Ireland Sunday to celebrate Remembrance Day with residents of Enniskillen, where a terrorist bomb killed 11 people on the same date in 1987. For security reasons her visit to Northern Ireland was kept secret until she arrived in this small town in County Fermanagh. Earlier in London, Buckingham Palace announced that Princess Diana, estranged wife of heir to the British throne Prince Charles, would attend ceremonies in memory of war dead with the royal family in London.

The Princess of Wales, dressed in a black suit, laid a wreath at the foot of a monument erected originally to the war dead and later dedicated also to victims of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) bomb six years ago. She also inaugurated a "cairn for peace," a traditional pyramid of stones built on the banks of Lake Erne by young Protestants and Roman Catholics from the region. Six years ago, the princess visited victim of the Enniskillen attack alongside Prince Charles just two weeks after the bombing. She and the prince separated a year ago. In London, most of the royal family and thousands of war veterans braved biting cold and violent winds to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies in front of the Whitehall Cenotaph.

Deng is in 'superb' health

BANGKOK (R) — China's 89-year-old supreme leader Deng Xiaoping is in "superb" health and takes a daily walk for exercise, his eldest son said Monday. "My father's health is superb," Deng Pufang told a news conference in the Thai capital Bangkok. "He is a strong man who performs daily exercise by walking and playing bridge. His bridge talent is at the world champion level."

Mr. Deng Xiaoping still monitors the political situation but spends most of his daily life in retirement as a normal citizen. Mr. Deng Pufang said. "He spends his time like other retired people because he believes the leaders of the younger generation are capable of leading China and replacing him for the task of developing the country," Mr. Deng Pufang said.

Mr. Sabharwal quoted the four who had come out of the shrine since Sunday as saying the relic was safe, but he added that the government planned to continue the siege to ensure that the sacred hair was not harmed.

Army officers privately say they laid the siege to a trap a top militant leader whom they mistakenly believed to be inside.

The army says there are up to 50 militants among some 80 people still holed up inside.

On Thursday the militants won supplies of blankets and warm clothes, a sign they are preparing for a long stand-off with Indian troops during Kashmir's harsh winter.

The Kashmir high court directed the government to provide woolens and blankets to the civilians among those besieged.

The court's ruling appeared to be a setback for the government, which was embarrassed earlier by a similar directive to provide everyone in the mosque with food and water.

Indian troops surrounded the shrine by scenic Dal Lake with

Gen. Aideed to put him on trial for the murder of U.N. troops, Mogadishu is relatively quiet.

But banditry is on the rise. On Saturday, clan gunmen ambushed a truck convoy north of Mogadishu, killing about 15 people and wounding at least 19 others. U.N. military officials said.

On Sunday, about 10 Somalis attacked a convoy of three vehicles belonging to U.S. civilian logistics contractor Brown and Root in the capital.

U.S. soldiers were escorting the civilian vehicles, which broke through the ambush without casualties.

Members of one clan were angry that the U.S. contractor was employing drivers from Gen. Aideed's Habre Gedir clan, he said.

Such disputes recall the months before U.S. forces arrived last December to save the country from famine and anarchy.

Indian jet in 'miraculous' landing in rice field

MADRAS (AFP) — An Indian Airlines Airbus jet carrying 259 passengers and crew made a "miraculous" emergency landing in a rice field in southern India Monday after running out of fuel on a domestic flight.

Medical workers rushed to the site to give first aid to several shaken people waiting around in ankle-deep mud, but said no one was seriously injured although some of the 247 passengers were hurled to the floor during the emergency landing.

The jet, which had taken off from Madras, had been due to stop over at Hyderabad while on a flight to New Delhi, but had been forced to return back because of thick fog over the runway. R.K. Bhalla, the jet's chief pilot, said.

On its return flight, the aircraft began losing altitude about 100 kilometres from Madras, forcing Mr. Bhalla to land the jet near the town of Tirupati, in Andhra Pradesh, he said.

"Having left a fine woman and two beautiful children that are anxious (and) who are waiting for Mr. Beaty's return ... I know how happy they are going to be," he said.

Mr. Beaty, wearing jeans and a T-shirt, described the time he spent in Iraq as "a difficult experience" but said he was never mistreated. The way "doctors, staff, the prison treated me was excellent ... I have no complaints whatsoever," he added.

Mr. Beaty, from Oklahoma, was originally charged with illegal entry and espionage but during his trial in May he was found guilty only of illegal entry.

He is the sixth foreigner President Saddam has freed in less than two months. Four westerners — three Britons and a Frenchman — remain in jail on illegal entry charges.

Mr. Boren, stressing the private nature of his visit, emphasised that no deal had been struck with the Iraqi government.

U.S. officials say that hard-line followers of faction leader Mohammad Farah Aideed have links with Hizbollah (Party of God) and that the United States will hold General Aideed responsible if anyone uses carbombs against U.S. forces.

But Gen. Aideed's followers dismissed the report as an attempt by the United Nations to besmirch the name of their leader and to raise tensions in the capital.

Many Somalis also rejected it as crude propaganda, saying it was most unlikely that any Somali group would have links

with Hizbollah. Somalis are Sunni Muslims, not Shi'ites.

"We don't even have contact with them (Hizbollah). The U.S. is generating this problem," said Abdi Abshir Kahiye, a member of Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance.

"Either the Americans have got their information from a wrong source or this is disinformation against Aideed," said Somali journalist Ali Musa.

The U.S. official said there could be a connection between the arrival of the pro-Iranian fundamentalists and the hijacking of a car with U.N. markings in Mogadishu Saturday.

In the attack on the car, four gunmen killed Kai Lincoln, 23, an American civilian working for the United Nations, and wounded two other U.N. staff who were in the vehicle.

"There could be a tie," said the U.S. official. The United Nations was tightening security checks at all U.N. installations from Monday, he added.

Except for the fundamental-

ist group Al Ittihad (Union), which has limited influence, Somalis are clan-based rather than religious in nature.

But in recent months U.N. and U.S. officials have repeatedly claimed that Gen. Aideed has links with Iran and Sudan and that he has received arms from abroad.

The United Nations closed a bus airstrip outside the capital in August, saying Gen. Aideed was using it as a conduit to smuggle weapons to fight the U.N. army.

It was later reopened and the normal traffic of qat, a stimulant leaf chewed by Somalis, started to flow again from neighbouring Kenya.

In September, the United Nations said Gen. Aideed had surface-to-air missiles which he could use against aircraft.

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